

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00518 241550Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0000

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 518

EXDIS

E. O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJ : TENNECO FIVE

REFS : A) ASMARA 517; B) STATE 134730

1. MRS. DORTZBACH MADE CALL TO HER PARENTS FROM CONSULATE OFFICE THIS MORNING, AFTER WHICH I TOOK HER AND KARL TO LUNCH.

2. MRS. DORTZBACH INDICATED THAT THE GROUP WHICH HAD KIDNAPPED HER ORIGINALLY WANTED DR. DEN HARTOG. WHEN THEY WERE FLEEING MISS STRIKWERDA WAS SHOT WHEN SHE COULD NOT KEEP UP WITH THE GROUP. THEY HAD NOT EXPECTED THE HELICOPTER THAT ARRIVED AND THOUGHT IT WAS SECOND DIVISION HELICOPTER. SHE SAID THE PEOPLE THAT HELD HER WERE NOT THE SAME ONES THAT KIDNAPPED HER BUT APPARENTLY BELONGED TO THE SAME GROUP. HER CONSTANT GUARDIANS IBRAHIM AND ISRAEL WERE NOT AWARE AT FIRST OF MISS STRIKWERDA'S DEATH AND LATER APOLOGIZED FOR IT AS A TACTICAL MISTAKE. SHE SAID IBRAHIM ALI NUR NEVER COMMENTED ON THAT. ISRAEL WAS THE AUTHOR OF SEVERAL LETTERS WHICH WERE THEN SIGNED BY IBRAHIM ALI NUR, WHO DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH. HER CAPTORS TOOK ORDERS ONLY FROM IBRAHIM ALI NUR, WHO CONTROLLED HER MOVEMENT FROM HER CAPTURE TO RELEASE. SHE WAS ONLY AWARE OF FIRST DEMAND FOR MEDICINE, WHICH WAS REJECTED, AND NOT THE MORE EXHORBITANT DEMANDS THAT FOLLOWED.

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3. SHE SAYS SHE SPENT MOST OF HER TIME IN A MOUNTAINOUS AREA AND NEVER CAME INTO CONTACT WITH ORIGINAL TENNECO 5. SHE REALIZED IBRAHIM ALI NUR CONTROLLED HER MOVEMENTS BUT WAS UNSURE WITH WHOM HE COORDINATED HIS DECISIONS. SHE LEARNED OF HER RELEASE ON THE 17TH, BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHY SHE WAS RELEASED THEN AND NOT BEFORE.

4. ISRAEL TOLD HER THEY WANTED THE MISSIONARIES BUT NOT NOW. THIS SEEMS TO CONTRADICT REQUEST TO SEND MEDICAL TEAM TO TREAT CHOLERA IN AREA. THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL MISSION HAS REQUESTED LETTER SIGNED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ASSURING SAFETY OF ALL MISSIONARY GROUPS. MR. DORTZBACH INDICATED THAT THE IEG WOULD ONLY ALLOW THEM TO ENTER AREAS WHERE THEY HAD SECURITY FORCES. A MEDICAL TEAM WILL HAVE TO RECEIVE PERMISSION FROM BOTH IEG AND ELF IN ANY AREA IN WHICH THEY OPERATE.

5. MRS. DORTZBACH HAS HAD A MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND APPEARS PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY WELL. THEY EXPECT TO REMAIN UNTIL THE END OF THE WEEK TO COMPLETE THE POLICE AND EMIGRATION PROCESSING. SHE WILL PREPARE A WRITTEN TRAVELLOGUE FOR THE POLICE. PERRY

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